

# Minutes



## ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

7.30pm 25<sup>th</sup> June 2010 – BALNAIN HALL, GLENURQUHART

**Attendees:** Directors: Anne MacDonald, Mary Brook, Andrew Castell & Erik Trelfer.

The Annual General Meeting was attended by 26 members. Apologies were noted from Pat Veitch.

Andrew Castell opened the meeting by thanking everyone for turning out. He then outlined the Agenda for the meeting.

Anne MacDonald delivered the Board's Report on the project so far. She reminded that the original brief of the Steering Group was to assess if a community owned turbine would be viable. On the basis of the current figures, a community owned turbine as part of the 5 turbine development would be possible and of benefit to the community.

A Company had been set up with Charitable Status to handle distribution to the community of the Revenue generated, and a second company Soirbheas Trading Ltd had been set up for the business side of things. An Option to Lease the site had been signed and a Collaboration Agreement signed with Corrimony Energy Ltd, setting out the contractual aspects.

Following the recent very positive community vote in favour of the project going forward, Anne outlined what the next tasks would be. Most important would be a need to work very closely with Corrimony Energy Ltd in order to determine and finalise costs for the project and the time-scales of each phase so that grants and finance could be put in place in time for each stage.

Andrew then covered the accounts which had been drawn up for the period to the end of May 2010 outlining the finance that had been secured so far and expenditure to date. He advised that the securing of further grant funding would be a continuing process.

In accordance with the Articles of Association, it was required that all the directors must stand down. All the directors had indicated their willingness to stand for re-election if the membership wished it, and anyone else interested in standing as a director were asked to make themselves known. Each of the directors was then proposed and seconded for re-election and the votes cast were nearly unanimous for each. No additional members put themselves forward for consideration.

The Treasurer, Pauline Trelfer also offered herself for re-election, was proposed, seconded and unanimously re-elected.

Anne advised that at present we had managed with just the 4 directors for Soirbheas Ltd and just herself and Erik Trelfer as directors of Soirbheas Trading Ltd. However, we would need more directors to share the work going forward and members were asked to give this consideration and to encourage other members perhaps. In particular we are seeking people with accounting/financial expertise and legal expertise. We also need to ensure we have a good cross section of the community serving. The membership were asked to provide their thoughts and suggestions as to what the

Revenue generated might be used for, what developments they would like to see and what it should all look like as we go forward.

#### ANY OTHER BUSINESS

The opportunity was provided for members to ask the Board questions and some of these are recorded below:

Q What is the Timescale for the project

A Obtaining Planning Consent may take 6 or so months. Difficult to be definite on other aspects of the project as the situation can constantly change. Last year for example turbine manufacturers were quoting 18 month delivery – this is now much shorter. Construction works can be held up by bad weather, we have to avoid certain times of the year due to the black grouse breeding times – but it is expected the construction phase will be done over a period of 2 years. It is likely to be 2-3 years yet before it is all up and running.

Q What about the Grid Connection?

A We had a grid offer but Mike Girvan had to let it go as it came with a lot of uncertainty about the over-all connection costs and a requirement that the Grid would be indemnified for the costs they encountered in upgrading the grid. This could be a very substantial sum – but they could not give a figure. It would cost £25,000 or so just for them to investigate what the costs might be! We are hoping that the increasing political pressure will bring about a resolution of grid connection problems as there are a number of projects now being held up nationally. Ultimately the Beauly-Denny line when it is built may solve the problem at least for us. However, it is a major issue for the project and we will not want to get too enmeshed with the project until we know a grid connection is available and the costs involved.

Q How windy is the site?

A Monitoring wind speeds and duration has been done over 18 months or more now and the site looks very promising – Orkney is acknowledged as one of the best locations and our readings have been comparable to some on Orkney

Q What about bird collisions?

A An extensive bird, small mammal and ecological survey has been done by independent experts in that field. The man doing the bird survey has a very high reputation and also acceptance by RSPB. His report indicated relatively few bird flights over the area which is barren moorland mainly and so not a food source for them. Whilst the occasional bird collision may occur, it is a very small probability and well below the levels considered to be acceptable risks.

Anne then outlined the sort of skills that are needed to help bring the project to fruition. Financial skills, legal skills and communication skills are all important. We need more folk to put themselves forward now and offer their help. We have to work out a Business Plan and need everyone's input to this. What sort of community projects do members want to see the Revenue applied to? We have been given some suggestions – extending the Care Centre has come out quite strongly for example. We need a consensus of what the community wants us to use the funds for – and this forms an important part of our grant application process. Anne thanked her Board colleagues for their help and perseverance in getting the project to this stage and the meeting was closed.

**Chairman:**

Anne MacDonald

**Clerk to the Board:**

Erik Trelfer

**Date:**